

Minutes of the Wilton Select Board Meeting
April 4, 2023

(FULL RECORDING IS AVAILABLE AT www.mtbluetv.org)

Members Present: Keith Swett, Tiffany Maiuri, Phil Hilton, David Leavitt, Mike Wells (Via Zoom) Perry Ellsworth, Town Manager

Item #1-Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of March 21, 2023

Motion by Mike/Second by Tiffany -To Accept the Minutes of the Select Board Meeting of March 21, 2023. Vote: 5-0

Item #2- Public to speak on non-agenda item

None

Item #3- Beeline Contract Change

Perry-Attached is the Amendment to the Franchise Agreement. Beeline is no longer going to have a local office. It was located in Madison, Me. There will still be an office in Maine but it will be further away. The Town's contract will show this change. In reference to the studio equipment and peg channel, if we choose, we will receive assistance. The company agrees to contribute funds in the amount of \$7,500.00 per year.

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany-To move to sign the Amendment to the Franchise Agreement. Vote: 5-0

Item #4Watermark- AVCOG Resolution for Resiliency Grant

(See Attached Resolution)

There was a workshop on February 21, 2023 in which the Town worked with the public to propose a list of potential projects.

The Town would like to upgrade to energy efficient appliances in municipal buildings. (Heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump for water heating)

The Town would also like to develop natural resource and habitat inventory that includes climate stressors and impacts.

The Town would like to update the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan.

The Town would like to enroll in NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) at Class 9 or better, reducing flood insurance premiums for residents.

Perry-We can apply for \$50,000 in funding for these proposed projects. Perry is designated as the coordinator, planner and monitor of all projects now and in the future.

Motion by Keith/Second by Phil-To sign the Resiliency Grant Resolution

Mike-After doing some research on this, he feels that if the Select Board signs this contract, it will hold the town accountable for their carbon footprint.

Vote: 4-1 (Mike voted no)

Item #5- Sewer Update

Heinz-We had to play with our numbers to get to the 15% for billing purposes. In regards to the gate at the sewer plant, the cost has increased. It is \$29,500. It increased by approximately \$800. We are getting back on track with this project. Perry would like to move forward. It has already been voted on at a previous meeting.

Heinz could not find any stakes. Mr. Webster has been looking and is in the process of surveying. Pole permit(s) will be needed from CMP.

Item #6- Cannabis Issues

Perry is concerned with the growing number of cannabis operations in town. He feels it is out of control. There are eight growths next door. (These were originally approved back in 2019). There are four operations but only one was licensed with us one time. We did not find out until recently that there were more. There are four there now. Three inspections have been done. We can only do one inspection in a 24-hour period. They can have 500 feet. They are using more than four rooms.

A growth facility that was approved on Route 2 would like to turn to a dispensary. Another dispensary of 2,500-4,000 square feet is being discussed.

Perry is requesting a moratorium so this can all be evaluated. Perry also mentioned that he feels that after the rates were recently lowered, a lot of

cannabis growers have been and predicts will continue to be attracted to the Town. Perry asked the Board to keep in mind the family recreation aspect. Should I be working on a moratorium that you the Select Board would approve? Mike-Good research Perry. There is quite an issue with drugs and gang activity. A moratorium would be a good idea.

Motion by Mike-To allow Perry, Town Manager to write a moratorium for further dispensaries and growth facilities.

Motion failed. No one seconded the motion.

Tiffany-Is there zoning? What is currently zoned?

Keith-We have spent approximately 30-40 hours along with the police and fire chief

Perry-He doesn't want the smell to be a concern.

Tiffany-We have an ordinance for that.

David is reluctant to make a decision without knowing what the fee structure is or should be. The regular tax payers of the town should not be footing the permitting for any business.

Item #7- Neighborhood Watch-Mike Wells

Mike had a discussion with the police department. Something has got to be done about the drug trade. He would like to set up a neighborhood watch program with some signs. There is new gang activity in Wilton. Watching and reporting could be set up through our website or directly with Franklin County Dispatch Center.

David-Is there training?

Mike-Yes, via the web, nationally. Wilton PD might be able to set up a stronger training program.

Tiffany agrees with Mike. She went along with an officer for a ride-a-long and was shocked with the drug activity. Neighborhood watch would be helpful. She supports what Mike is putting forth.

Mike can discuss with Ethan (Wilton Police Chief) and dispatch to implement a plan. It would be a good idea to have Tiffany too. This would be a working group. David would like to see a written-out plan.

Mike will have a written plan for the next meeting.

Motion by Tiffany/Second by Phil-To form an Adhoc Committee for neighborhood watch that would consist of 2 Select Board Members, 2 Citizens and 2 police officers.

Motion amended to clarify the Police chief and an officer.

Vote: 5-0

Item #8- Manager's Report

(See attached report)

We were not included in the fuel bid with SAD 9.

There is an issue with using the sidewalk machine on Main St. It interferes with some of the lamp posts.

An extension is being worked on for the fuel tank issue at the Highway garage.

The replacement cost of approximately \$180,000 would be difficult to incorporate in this year's budget.

Perry recommended that the Army Engineers should work on the wall at the dam area.

Mike explained that the Army engineers are with the Maine National Guard, engineering unit. They would use this as a training program. We would offer them some projects such as grading, culverts, road work or maybe the wall at the dam area.

There was a meeting with Charter. (Spectrum). Tiffany met with them. They are committed to one gigabit symmetrical by 2025. They are looking at a hybrid solution. They are looking at serving those with no internet. The goal is to get fiber to the homes.

Perry-Charter does a lot of their work through phone conversation. They wouldn't commit to a lot but did commit to one gig. The lines would need assessment and diagnostic work.

Keith-Someone was to submit a list of track record of expansion.

Perry has this and will submit to the Select Board.

Tiffany clarified that they would look into serving the underserved.

Perry-There is a new speed grant that is being researched.

Perry-The Code Enforcement Officer has condemned one building. There is a plan in place to take care of some repairs. A notice of violation was issued and they are planning on starting repairs within 30 days.

There was also a cleanup order on a property located on Main St. A 60-day notice was given for repairs.

Union contracts are being worked on and are hoping to finish up this evening.

Phil-Questioning the whereabouts on the generator for the Town Office?

Perry-It was removed for motor repair.

Keith-Foreclosure updates?

Perry-The remaining are all making payments and are on a verbal arrangement.

2020 are paid. Perry is asking for an extension past the thirty days. Perry gave until September 1, 2023.

Item #9- Other

Vote needed for the General Assembly Appointment for AVCOG(See attachment)

Motion by Phil/Second by Tiffany to endorse Philip Crowell, President/ Shiloh

LaFreinere, Vice President/Danielle Loring,Treasurer/Leslie Boness,

Secretary/Clerk

Perry is also looking for a volunteer to be the General Assembly Representative.

Mike Wells was nominated.

Vote: 5-0

Mike updated on the ARPA funding for the 1.5 million he applied for in reference to the Water Department Transmission Line Project. We are indeed eligible and this will have a revote at the end of the month.

County news: Several prisoners were refused at the jail. Mike is researching this.

There is a high refusal rate. A discussion is needed with the Franklin County

Commissioners and Sheriff Nichols.

Adjournment

Motion by Phil /Second by Tiffany -To Adjourn

Vote: 5-0

7:04P.M.

